

US SN: 09/513,151

Attorney Docket No. 979-1-017

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

B4
1. (Amended) A *gro-1* polynucleotide encoding a hgro-1p protein, said *gro-1* polynucleotide being homologous to the *C. elegans gro-1* gene which encodes a protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 which functions in the regulation of cellular physiology, developmental rate and longevity, wherein said *gro-1* polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or any functional fragment thereof having said function in the regulation of cellular physiology, developmental rate and longevity.

REMARKS

Claim 1 is now in the application and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The amendments made to the claim are clearly indicated in the attachment entitled "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Before discussing the specific issues raised in the outstanding Office Action and applicants' amendments and remarks, applicants wish to thank Examiner Canella for the time taken to grant and conduct the personal interview with the undersigned, Dr. Hekimi, his assistant Ms. Benard, and co-counsel, France Cote. All participants believe that the interview was extremely productive and informative, and it is hoped that the present response will reflect the benefits that are believed to have accrued from the review of the issues that took place.